

1444. c. 13.

A. K.

Raney (F)

# LETTER

TO

all

Rich<sup>d</sup> E. Esq;

3<sup>rd</sup> March



PRINTED in the YEAR 1759.

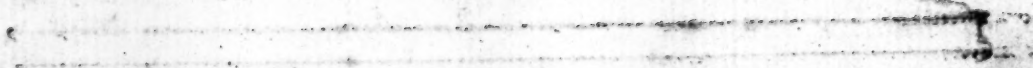
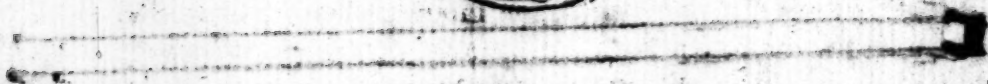
J. H. T. E. N.

1840

PLP



1840



BRITISH MUSEUM

**LETTER to R. F. Esq;**

**S I R,**

**T**HE Liberties, which you and your Friends have taken, for some Months past, with my Character, apparently with a View to lessen me in the Affection of my own Family, as well as in the Esteem of my Friends, Neighbours and Countrymen, and the false Representations, which have given Currency and Weight to this Slander, have induced some worthy Persons, who have known me for many Years, to recommend to me a publick Vindication of myself.

I should willingly have waved this, knowing, how seldom the clearest Evidence of Facts will prevail with some Men, to give up their Prejudices, and how much easier it is to spread a popular Slander, than to obtain from the Publick such a minute Examination, of a Case not very interesting to the Publick, as the Discovery of the Truth may require.

BUT the Opinion of those Friends, and the Assiduity, with which I am slandered, have rendered it necessary to do Justice to myself.

I have chosen to do this in an Address to you, because I can appeal to you for the Truth of most of my Allegations; and because



cause you are the Author of many, and the Occasion of all the Calumnies, with which I am loaded, I have chosen to make this Address publick; because it is impossible for me, as a Man of Business, to follow you through all the Companies, where you have Leisure and Inclination to traduce me.

You have singled me out, as an Object of your Resentment, for *withdrawing from your Interest the Assistance of mine*. Your Resentment of this, if just, must be founded in a *Claim of Right to my Assistance*. If you had any such Claim, it must be founded, either in personal *Obligations* laid by you upon me, or in the *Friendship*, which subsisted between us, or in my having ever professed such *Party Principles*, as would render it inconsistent to act against you, or in the *Regard*, which I profess to the *Good of this Town*.

THESE are all the Grounds I can recollect, upon which your Claim to my further Assistance could be built. If you know of any other, I shall consider them with as strict a Regard to Truth, as that with which I now propose to consider these.

I will lay before you a Series of Facts, from which it will appear to you, as well as the World, that I am under *no personal Obligation* to you, and that you *FIRST violated the Friendship* between us. I shall call upon you to *prove*, that I ever professed any *Party Principles*, inconsistent with my present Conduct; and I shall leave the World to judge, which of us is promoting the *real Good* of this Town; You, who are endeavouring to keep up a Flame, without the least Prospect or Desire of Success; or I, who after experiencing your Success to be Impracticable, and discovering your Meaning to be such, as I cannot Countenance, intend to use my utmost Endeavours, to restore Peace and Harmony among my Neighbours.

SOME Time before the general Election, in the Year 1754, when you began to meet your Friends, and to canvass and solicit Votes, a Relation of mine and Friend of yours applied to me for my Vote and Interest in your Favour, which I was not indisposed to give. You came to me soon after, and solicited the same Favour, which I then promised to grant.



I mention this so circumstantially, to shew, that you intended to offer yourself a Candidate, before you was assured of my Assistance; which removes one of the Imputations thrown out against me, that I was the Person, who persuaded you to stand.

AGREEABLY to my Promise, I assisted you, at the Expence of my Health, my Time, &c.

I entered warmly into every thing, that tended to promote your Cause, concluding from your Oppolition to two powerful Families, that you heartily wished to succeed.

If you should plead, that I had other Motives to this Activity in your Service, I confess I had; but they were known to you then, and I well remember, that at the Time, and many Times since, you professed your Obligation to me, in the strongest Terms; and I was not then, nor have been at any time since, under the least Obligation to you.

YOUR Election miscarried. From this Time, my Friends and I took every Opportunity of advancing your Popularity and Interest in the Town. We succeeded so far, by unwearied Diligence, as to gain a Majority in your Favour in the Common-Council, and we elected no one into that Body, whose Attachment to you was not perfectly well known.

*See S. Washburn  
of the Mr.  
Charles  
Town, had  
was then  
returned.*

I proceeded farther. I recommended it to you, as a Measure important to your Interest, to be elected into the Common-Council yourself, and pleaded my continual Engagements in the Business of my Profession, as a Reason for leaving to you, at least in part, the Management of your Interest in that Body. I requested this several Times, always intimating my own Desire to be eased of that Trouble, and to be at Liberty to attend to my own Affairs. You constantly declined the Offer, always adding, that your Obligations to me were such, that you should never have it in your Power sufficiently to acknowledge them.

ABOUT the latter End of the Year 1756, one of the Seats in Parliament for this Borough became vacant. I met you and se-

*The Rev. Mr. Townshend A2 several  
by being appointed Treasurer of the Church; & Mr. Townshend  
afterwards the Rev. Mr. C. F., was elected in his room.*

veral of your Friends, and proposed an active Measure towards your Success, which was rejected. However, I once more engaged in your Cause, with such Vigour, that my Health was considerably impaired by the Contest. I again spared neither Time, nor Money, and encouraged others of your Friends by my Example to contribute theirs.

We again failed of Success. I had now seen enough of these Struggles, to become quite weary of my Share of the Work. It appeared to me highly improbable that you would ever succeed, after the Defeat of such Efforts, as were then made. I signified something like this to yourself; at least I intimated, that I should study my own Peace, and not engage further in these Matters, than by giving my Vote, whenever you should think fit to offer yourself again. You then, and frequently since declared, that you had no Right to my Services longer, than I was pleased to give them, and that you was highly obliged to me for the Part I had taken.

*Had my health been better, I might have been more useful to you.*  
Soon after this Conversation, but not in consequence of it, I received an Offer from a Person of very high Rank, of an Office in my own Profession, which had been reported to him to be worth 400l. per Annum. The Offer came with such Professions of Kindness to me, as did me great Honour.

*I was not in a hurry to accept of it.*  
I consulted you upon the Subject, for our Friendship was now become more intimate, than you may perhaps be disposed to acknowledge. I have no Inclination either to sink you, or to exalt myself, by affirming it. I desire only to appeal to your Memory for Facts, and to your Judgment for the Conclusions I shall draw from them.

You told me, that, in your Opinion, I ought to accept the Offer. I was struck with the apparent Generosity of this Declaration, and told you in Return, that for your sake I would decline it; that it was an invariable Rule of Life with me, never to accept a Favour, without a Desire and Intention of making some Return.



turn; and that, whilst I stood connected with you, I could not make the only Return, which might be expected. Accordingly I wrote a respectful Letter, begging leave to decline the Offer; which was never made to me since.

You was much affected at my Conduct, and assured me, with Tears in your Eyes, that I had heaped so many Obligations upon you, that you should never see me in any Part of your Life, but a fresh Obligation would stare you in the Face.

SOMETIME after this, a Scheme was proposed, by some of your Friends, for rendring your Success infallible, and for your sake I concurred earnestly in forwarding it to the utmost of my Power.

You declared, from the Beginning, your Dislike of it, as unconstitutional, and persevered in your Opposition to it, till it was laid aside. I should have ascribed this Opposition to the most honourable Motives; but your Appearance soon after at a Place, upwards of fifty Miles distant from hence, where you concurred in this very Measure, which you had declared so unconstitutional, and even gave it the Sanction of your Name, left me at a Loss, to what Motive to attribute your Opposition to it at home, till the last Conversation I had with you, of which I shall soon have occasion to speak, cleared up the Matter.

By this Time the Character of the Gentleman, whom you had last opposed, became known among his Constituents. He had distinguished himself by uncommon Activity in their Service, and even some of the most considerable of your Friends were warm in their Acknowledgements of his Merit.

I had not then the Honour to be personally acquainted with him; but had heard so much of his Worth, and had seen those Reports so well confirmed, by Letters of his to some eminent Merchants here, that I could not forbear, even in your Company, to express myself in Terms of Esteem for that Gentleman.

*7. 11. 1791*  
*Henry*  
*from*  
*to*  
*1. 11. 1791*

*7. 11. 1791*

*C. Townshend*  
*very*  
*much*  
*in*  
*1791*

*It*



It is not improbable, that our Friendship was shaken that Day, though contrary to my Intention. You appeared to be hurt, and answered, with some Emotion, that you knew nothing he had done, which any Gentleman in his Situation would not have done. I dropt the Subject, having not the least thought of a Breach with you.

ABOUT this Time a Complication of Misfortunes, which beset some of your Friends and others in the Town, produced so general a Despondency, that all serious Persons began to speak of our Election Contests as Evils, to express themselves weary of them, and to wish, that you were so far satisfied, that we might be in no Danger of a further Trouble and Expence, which few of us were in a Condition to support.

I was one of the Many who talked this Language, and I was very sincere in what I said. But unfortunately for me, this honest Concern for my Neighbours increased the Suspicion, which seemed to have been excited before, by my innocent Declaration of my good Opinion of a Gentleman, who is acknowledged by your Friends to be an Object of Esteem.

THE Lord Lieutenant had, not long before, done you and me the Honour to appoint us Deputy Lieutenants for the Execution of the Militia Act. I attended at two or three Meetings, and there became acquainted with that Gentleman.

I could not imagine, that you would presume, that my Friendship with you precluded an Acquaintance with him; and accordingly I received his polite advances to me in such Manner as became me. However we exchanged not a Word at those Meetings, relative to the Affairs of this Town, or to his Interest in it.

SOME Business having called me to London in February last, I fell into the same Gentleman's Company, not at his own House as you have alledged, tho' it is a Charge, which I should have most readily confessed, had it been true. He proposed a Tavern Meeting with me, and I accepted the Invitation.

OUR

Our Conversation soon turned upon the State of Things at *Par-*  
*mouth* — He expressed himself strongly desirous and ready to pursue  
any Method of restoring Peace to the Town. I told him I could  
not answer for others of your Friends, but that my Opposition  
would extend no farther, than my Wishes to serve you; that the  
most effectual Means of Peace would be, to confer an Obliga-  
tion upon you, and that I would for your Sake, and for the common  
Good, venture to propose it to you.

I then mentioned the Object, which I thought most desirable to  
you, and most agreeable to your Friends. He said, it would be  
attended with such insuperable Difficulties, that he could not pro-  
mise it. Another Object was then proposed, to which, on several  
Accounts, I thought you might not be averse; and he assured me,  
that whenever it was done, it should be done in a Manner, the most  
delicate and obliging to you. I cheerfully undertook the Negotia-  
tion for your Sake, and I do solemnly declare, that I had your In-  
terest most sincerely at Heart.

*to come into  
Parliament.*

At my Return to this Town, I found, to my great Surprise, that  
during my Absence, a Scheme had been formed, amongst your  
Friends, for supplanting my Interest in the Corporation. A Mem-  
ber of the Common Council being dead, it had been agreed, with-  
out my Privy, to elect a Person in Opposition to me in his Room.

X

I attended the Society, at which this was to be proposed and  
resolved on; a Society, formed by my Friends and me for your  
Interest, and consisting chiefly of Persons introduced by them and  
me for your Interest.

One worthy Member, a Friend of yours, called me aside, and  
told me, that my Presence, and that of my particular Friends, was  
useless, for the Majority were privately engaged, against our Incli-  
nations; and another worthy Friend of yours acquainted me,  
that upon his asking one of them the Reason of this extraordina-  
ry Proceeding, he answered, That I had had the Power of the  
Corporation too long, and that they were determined, I should  
have it no longer.

When



WHEN the previous Question was put, and a Majority appeared ready to oppose me, I remonstrated to them this dark, undermining, ungrateful Conduct, and left the Room with a Resolution, never to act with them again.

HOWEVER I distinguished between you and them, and called upon you a Day or two after, to consult upon what had passed. You expressed your Concern at it, and I then learnt, from your own Mouth, what I would not have believed from any other, that you yourself, Sir, was concerned in this Transaction; that you went to the then Mayor to open it to him, and that he very prudently told you, it would have the Effect of breaking them to pieces, that is, of dissolving a Society, which was formed for your Purposes, and had no other Object than your Service.

THAT you concurred in a Measure, which tended to the Dissolution of your Friends, might be owing to a want of Foresight. But that you should promote such a Measure, in Opposition to Me, after the many Marks of Friendship you had received, and had acknowledged to have received from me, and that you should do it, without the least Provocation on my Part, without the least Grounds to suspect my Attachment to you, except those unreasonable Grounds before-mentioned, appeared to me irreconcilable to Rules of Friendship and Principles of Honour.

BUT I only expostulated with you the Unkindness of this Treatment, that after such a Confidence, as had subsisted between us, which had been kept up inviolably on my Part, an Affair of this Kind should be planned, and brought to the Point of Execution, without the least Intimation to me or to most of my Friends.

You pleaded, that you thought it would be disagreeable to me at first, but that in Time I might pass it over, for that the Person intended, and twenty such as he, would be no more than a Wisp of Straw in my Hands, and that, without me, the whole Body must be dissolved, for they were nothing without my Assistance. I smiled at the Flattery of a Declaration, which had been so glaringly contradicted by your Conduct.



Our Conversation did not end here. But I must relate what passed in Consequence of it, before I repeat the latter Part.

I considered this Transaction, as a most unfriendly Proceeding with Respect to me, and frankly told you, that as I knew it soon enough, to prevent the Success of it, I most certainly would. When the Election came on, a Majority of the Common-Council appeared disposed to support my Cause, and they actually did. But I had still some Tenderness for you, and recommended a Person to be chosen, who was a Friend of yours, and who had brought you, to his own Detriment, a considerable Interest at the last Election. He was chosen agreeably to my Wishes.

From this Day was poured out that Torrent of Abuse, which would have overwhelmed a Man less undeserving of it than myself. You considered this Measure as an Act of Hostility against you, and complained loudly of it.

You did more. You defamed me in all Places, and chiefly at a Distance from Home, with a Malignity, which even a Sense of Injury would not have justified, and which a Sense of Obligations rendered criminal. You insulted me, in the grossest Terms, even under my own Window, at a Time, when you was swelled with the Hopes of dividing me from a Gentleman, to whom I shall ever pay that filial Duty, and personal Affection, to which the Obligations he has laid upon me, and his Character, justly intitle him.

You did more yet. You divulged the Offer, which had been made me three Years ago, and which I communicated to you and some few of your Friends in Confidence, upon your and their Promise of Secrecy; and you disclosed it to the Person, who you thought would be most affected by it. You reported, contrary to another Promise of Secrecy, so much of our last Conversation, as might answer your Purpose, and represented my Interview with one of our worthy Representatives in London, in such a Light, as if it had been injurious to you.

*See Answer  
Further in last  
to Mr. Ramsay.*

CAN you wonder, Sir, or complain, if, after this Treatment, I repeat, in my own Vindication, the rest of that Conversation, which till then had not been disclosed to the most intimate Friend I have?

AFTER I had gently expostulated with you the Affair of the Common-Council-man, I entered upon the Negotiation for Peace, which I had undertaken, and proposed to you the Offer, which had been suggested in *London*, and which had been agreed to be made.

You objected to it, partly that it was not explicit enough, and partly, that so many Persons were to be consulted, that you could not hearken to it; telling me at the same Time, that you was much obliged to me for this fresh Instance of my Regard for you, and that you was not so weak, as to object to the Acceptance of a Favour from an Administration, whose Measures you approved. You hinted indeed other Terms, but they were such, as I knew neither would nor could be accepted.

BUT what is most material for my Justification, as well as for the Consideration of all your Townsmen, particularly of those, who have been zealous, and expended their Time and Money, and incurred Enmities, in your Service, is a Declaration, which you made to me on this Occasion, and never before.

You told me, on my expressing my Wish, that the first Object had succeeded, that you had not of late Years wished to be in Parliament; that it was too late in Life for you to wish it; that it would be a most unhappy Day for you, if you should be elected; that it would alter your whole Scheme of Life; that your Affairs required Economy rather than Expence; and you concluded all this with the following Words, or Words to this Effect; "Mr. R. I will tell you what you never knew before, and what I never told any one. You know, that Mr. B. said to you in the Election of 1754, that he would not forgive you, if he should



“ should be returned. At that Time, I assure you, my Heart  
 “ asked more than his, lest I should be returned; and you know,  
 “ with what Reluctance I was brought to stand at the last E-  
 “ lection.”

“ For God's sake, said I, why then is this violent Flame kept  
 “ up in the Town;—and as you see some of your Friends ruined,  
 “ and others on the Brink of Ruin, and the Trade of the Town  
 “ unhappily declining, why should such of your Friends, as may  
 “ need Assistance, be spirited up to a Conduct, which may deprive  
 “ them of it.”

You answered, that you had been appointed to serve a burthen-  
 some Office this Year, and that you would resent the Appointment,  
 and whenever one of the Name of our present Representatives  
 offered himself a Candidate, you would oppose him. I then  
 asked what End would be answered by such an Opposition, since  
 you did not wish to succeed? You answered, that you should  
 have the Satisfaction of *obliging him to spend Money.*

I told you, that I thought this a poor Business, and asked, if you  
 expected your Friends to follow you in such a Scheme? You  
 replied, No, that you did not expect it from me, nor many others,  
 and that you was obliged by what we had done; but that there  
 would be always a sufficient Number to join you, for the Purpose  
 of *reducing them to the Necessity of spending Money.*

It appears from this Narrative, the greatest part of which you  
 know to be true, and the rest I solemnly affirm to be true, that  
 you, Sir, are, by your own repeated Confession, under great Obliga-  
 tions to Me, and that you first violated the Friendship between  
 us. It appears, that I did all I could in your Service, whilst I  
 thought it possible to serve you; that I was willing to surrender  
 into your Hands the Interest I have; and that, after I had seen  
 the great Improbability of your ever succeeding, and therefore grew  
 weary of the Work, I was ready to concur in a Measure, which  
 might

*High  
 Strength  
 of  
 Nature*



might render your Success Infalible, but which was rendered abortive, by your Opposition to it.

It appears, that my Zeal for these fruitless Attempts was naturally abated, before I had the least Intercourse with any of the Gentlemen, against whom I acted, and before I had the least Suspicion of your *not willing to succeed*. If indeed I had known this, I should have withdrawn from you much earlier, and should have discerned the true Reason, why you opposed a Measure, which would have insured your Success, and in which you concurred in another Place.

When all this industrious Abuse of me for the Part I have acted, if I had left you, without a Provocation, you would have no Right to complain, for as I can challenge you to name the Obligation I have to you, I think you had no Right to the further Consumption of my Time, my Health and my Money,

BUT as I did not leave you without Reluctance; as the very Act, which you treated as an Act of Hostility, had a Tendency to serve your Interests; as I have been undermined, insulted, slandered, and I am sorry to use the Word, Betrayed, explain to me, upon what Pretensions you have any further Claim to my Assistance? And as you have no Desire to succeed in the Point, which I have, for several Years past, laboured to accomplish for you; I beg to know, what Detriment is done to you, if I divert my Labour from your Affairs to my own?

BUT I am charged, with having deserted my Party; and the Charge, having more Sound than Meaning, is very apt to come from the Mouths of ignorant unthinking Men.

Of what Party, Sir, were you and I, when I zealously promoted your Interest? I call upon you to prove, that I ever professed any Principles, inconsistent with my Duty and Allegiance to the present Government. And I will do you the Justice to say, that I never

never heard you profess any other. This being admitted, I do not understand, upon what part of my Conduct you will fix my Political Inconsistency? You will not deny, that the Interest of the present Government may be promoted, at least as effectually, by supporting the Interest of our present Representatives, as it can be promoted by supporting your Interest.

BUT I am charged further, with acting Inconsistently with the Regard I profess to the Good of this Town. The Good of this Town I apprehend to consist in the *Peace* and *Prosperity* of it. The *Peace* of it has been interrupted, for five or six Years past, by Election Contests, which I assisted in carrying on, with a View to your Success. The *Prosperity* of the Town depends upon the Industry and Sobriety of the Inhabitants, and, in Case that should fail of Success, as it has done for some Time past, upon their Connection with such powerful Men, as can administer Help to the unfortunate, and forward the necessary Applications to Government from the Incorporated and the Mercantile Part.

WILL you maintain, Sir, that your Contests have a natural Tendency to promote the *Peace* of the Town? As they will probably always be fruitless, and as it is agreeable to your Interest and *Wishes* they should be so, I protest, I do not see, with what Consistency a Friend to the *Peace* of this Town can, after knowing the *State of your Interest*, and the *Truth of your Wishes*, lend his Hand to support such Schemes.

AND is our publick *Prosperity*, in any Respect, promoted by these Contests? I leave you to answer the Question, who have been a Witness to the Idleness, Riot, and Debauchery of contested Elections, and to the Misfortunes, which they have contributed to produce among us.

IN short, I am perswaded from my own Experience, that your Pretensions *never could succeed* with my Assistance; I am assured by yourself, that you *never wished them to succeed*: I have done  
all



all I could to promote your Views; I have been *provoked* by such Treatment, as I cannot bear, to withdraw from your Cause; and if at any Time hereafter you should persevere in your professed Intention, to distress other Men, merely *for the Sake of distressing them*, you will excuse me, if I oppose the little Interest I have to the Progress of such Mischief, because I think it unmanly, unworthy of your good Sense, Politeness and good Nature; unworthy of the Concurrence of any ingenuous Man; and because I think it cruel to disturb and confound the Town, for no other Purpose, than to amuse the private Resentment, or gratify the unreasonable Views of one of its Inhabitants. I am,

S I R,

*Your very humble Servant,*

YARMOUTH,

Nov. 28, 1759.

JOHN RAMEY.

F I N I S.

1 0059

